



Californians for Affordable and Reliable Energy's Statement on Governor's Speech at United Nations Climate Summit

September 23, 2014

Governor Brown spoke today at the United Nations Climate Summit promoting California's climate change goals and respective policies. Californians for Affordable and Reliable Energy (CARE) recognize Governor Brown for his strong outreach efforts to promote national and international adoption of emission reduction policies. Reducing carbon emissions effectively requires the cooperation of all nations, and California cannot solve this global issue through unilateral state action.

Most importantly, the key to success for the Governor's climate change policies is for California to remain competitive in the world economy. For example, the cost of energy is a major factor. According to a report prepared by Navigant Consulting, California energy policies have already created a competitive disadvantage for businesses. The price of California energy and electricity across all sectors combined (residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation) are notably higher than comparable prices in the neighboring states or U.S. averages (Navigant, 2013).

Climate change policies should be crafted in a way that promotes middle class job creation and expansion. Economic reports consistently indicate a two-tiered economic recovery with job growth in high wage and low wage sectors along with much higher poverty rates. Examples include the manufacturing and construction sectors which remain nearly 450,000 jobs below the 2007 levels (Center for Jobs and the Economy). According the Employment Development Department, green jobs account for only 3.4% of California's total wage and salary employment.

CARE looks forward to supporting the Governor to make the state's employment, economic growth, and energy policies compatible with his climate change goals.